Amendments to the Claims

1-6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Currently Amended) A computerized method comprising:

receiving, from a first application on a client computer, a first request, at a connection manager, for a connection to a remote resource;

saving in a data structure **maintained by the connection manager, a first connection request data element comprising:**

_____an identifier of the **first application from which the** first request for a connection **was received; and**

          a value representing a time of the first request;

upon receiving the first request for connection, creating the connection between the first application and the remote resource when a physical hardware connection between the client computer and the remote resource is not already established;

receiving, at the connection manager, a second request from a second application for connection to the same remote resource as the first application, the first application, the second application and the connection manager all being located on the same client computer;

saving in the data structure, a second connection request data element comprising:

          an identifier of the second application from which the second request for a connection was received; and

          a value representing a time of the second request;

sharing the connection to the remote resource between the first application and the second application, wherein sharing the connection includes having the first and second applications using the same physical hardware connection to the remote resource;

receiving a request for a disconnection from either the first or second application for disconnection from a remote resource;

deleting from the data structure, **the connection request data element corresponding to the application from which** an identifier of the request for the disconnection **was received**;

disconnecting the physical hardware connection upon a disconnection request when the deleted **connection request data element** identifier is the last **connection request data element** identifier of a request for a connection in the data structure, and when the deleted **connection**

request data element ~~identifier~~ is not the last **connection request data element** ~~identifier~~, maintaining the connection.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 further comprising:

determining whether a period of time has elapsed for one or more of the connection request data elements, the determining based at least in part on inspection of one or more of the corresponding values representing times of the requests; and

~~removing an identifier of a request for a connection~~ **deleting** from the data structure, **at least one of the connection request data elements** after [[a]] **the corresponding** period of time ~~after the request is made~~ **has elapsed** if a process associated with the identifier **in the corresponding connection request element** has terminated.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the remote resource is a web server.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the connection is a dial-up connection between a modem and an Internet service provider.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the method is running on a wireless device with plural applications sending the connection requests and communicating with remote resources over the connection.

12-17. (Canceled)

18.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

creating a physical hardware connection in response to a request from a first process to communicate with a remote resource, the process being located on a client computer;

using a connection manager, storing **in a data structure** identifiers of multiple other processes requesting ~~communicating~~ **to communicate** with remote resources via the connection **along with time values corresponding to requests made by the multiple other processes**, the

first process sharing the physical hardware connection with the multiple other processes and wherein the first process, the multiple other processes and the connection manager are located on the same computer;

using the connection manager, removing an identifier of one of the processes from the stored identifiers when the process requests a disconnection;

maintaining the connection when a process requests a disconnection when stored identifiers indicate another process is communicating with remote resources via the connection; and

disconnecting the connection when a process requests a disconnection when stored identifiers indicate no other process is communicating with remote resources via the connection.

19.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 18 further comprising executable instructions for removing an identifier of a process from the stored identifiers when the process has terminated.

20.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 18 further comprising executable instructions for periodically removing identifiers of processes from the stored identifiers when the processes have terminated without requesting a disconnect**, wherein the periodically removing is based at least in part on the time values**.

21.   (Currently Amended) A method of connecting plural applications to a remote resource, comprising:

receiving a first request from a first application, located on a client computer, to connect to a remote resource;

establishing a physical hardware connection between the first application and the remote resource;

receiving a second request from a second application located on the same client computer as the first application to connect to the same remote resource;

using the same established physical hardware connection for the second application so that the first application and second application share the physical hardware connection to the remote resource;

using a centralized connection manager, maintaining a record **in a data structure at the centralized connection manager** of which applications are using the shared connection**, the data structure comprising data elements corresponding to connection requests that have been added to the data structure in response to connection method calls**;

in response to a disconnection request from either the first or second application, **deleting a data element from the data structure at the centralized connection manager, the data element corresponding to the application from which the disconnection request was received;**

determining whether any data elements corresponding to connection requests remain in the data structure; and

based on the determining, maintaining the connection while at least one of the **data elements corresponding to connection requests remains in the data structure** ~~applications has not disconnected and remains in the record~~ and otherwise disconnecting the physical hardware connection.

22.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the requests are received by an operating system located on the client computer.

23.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[21]] **22**, wherein the requests are received by the operating system through an application program interface.

24.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the connection is a dial-up connection between a modem and an Internet service provider.